



Observer

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**SAINT
JOSEPH'S
COLLEGE**
INDIANA

Involved For Life



Left: Students, parents, and faculty eagerly await the induction ceremony Right: ALD president Allison Chappelle (with fellow officer Jordan Henley) prepares to address the new members

ALD Welcomes New Members

By Melissa Piskula, Staff Writer

Alpha Lambda Delta is a national honors society that recognizes academic excellence among freshmen women and men. ALD was founded in 1924 by Maria Leonard, who served as the Dean of Women at the University of Illinois from 1923 until 1945. Since 1939, Alpha Lambda Delta has been active in the Association of College Honor Societies. On Saturday, Sept. 24, the SJC chapter of ALD welcomed forty-four new members, as

well as four faculty honorary members.

Saint Joseph's ALD chapter president, Allison Chappell, said, "The induction ceremony is held every year to recognize members of the sophomore class who maintained a 3.5 GPA both semesters of their freshman year. To be a part of ALD lets everyone around you know that you held your grades to high standards, and they can extrapolate that you will also continue to hold

yourself to those standards in other areas of your life."

"ALD helps to define one's character because of the nature of the group; it is not a self-serving group," Chappell continued. "It is a highly community-oriented group. We are there to recognize others for their achievements, help others to the best of our ability, and hopefully, become better for it in the long run."

Kirsten Magnuson was one of the students inducted in Saturday's ceremony. "What

being inducted into the ALD means to me," Magnuson said, "is that it makes me feel like all of my hard work paid off freshman year."

Alpha Lambda Delta became known as a national organization in 1926. Since then, the Alpha Lambda Delta society has grown to over 230 chapters and has initiated more than 700,000 students throughout the United States.

Networking: It's All About Who You Know

By Katie Grgic, Co-Editor in Chief

An invaluable tool necessary for success in the business world is that of networking, which occurs any time people meet and exchange contacts and information. Whether it is attending a formal event or chatting with someone you meet on a night out, networking can help you make contacts across the board that can result in a job lead, a job offer, and/or overall career success. Despite what some may believe, networking is not a one-time conversation where you ask someone for a job; rather, it is a lifelong process of relationship building that can result in personal and professional success.

Leslie Hielema, Director of the Center for Indiana Partnerships, cannot stress the importance of networking enough to students at SJC. "The Career Center offers networking luncheons and notifies students of off-campus networking opportunities so

they can practice this important skill. It can help so much in getting a job, especially considering the hidden job market-jobs that aren't even advertised but are out there." More than anything, the important thing about networking is that while the conversation should be relaxed and natural, you should never go in unprepared. Hielema advocates what is considered an "elevator pitch," a brief statement that sums up who you are, what you do, and your background. "I tell students to think of it as their personal commercial. They have thirty seconds to interest the other person and engage them in conversation."

The elevator pitch is an excellent preparation tool, especially for formal networking events, but it requires practice to make it sound natural. Once perfected, however, the information gained in a simple conversation can be surprising

and beneficial. "I attended the networking luncheon SJC held last spring," said senior Kara Marxer. "I spoke with alumni that gave me business cards and numbers to call when I wanted to find an internship. One alumna told me that she loved hiring students from SJC just because she knew the types of people that attended this school from her days as a student."

However, networking opportunities present themselves all the time, and not necessarily in organized events. You should never be afraid to talk to people that you meet everyday about your interests and what you are interested in doing with your career. Marxer found this out firsthand during spring break of her sophomore year, perhaps the least expected place to make job contacts. "I've found that even in the most unusual places at the most unusual times, you can network," she said. "I met a

radio sales executive with KISS radio when I was on spring break in South Carolina. She gave me her business card just because I told her I was on the radio station here at SJC, and told me to call her when I was looking for internships. You don't have to be at a "networking event" or job fair to find connections for an internship or job."

Ultimately, there is some truth to the statement "It's all about who you know," and networking enables you to establish connections that can result in a wider variety of job opportunities than the classifieds can offer. For more information on networking, contact the Career Development Center at x6116. Also, be sure to keep an eye out next issue for the importance of mentoring and the impact it can have on your career search!

When Wasting \$5.6 Trillion Dollars Comes To Haunt You

By E. Andrew Jendraszak, *Opinion Editor*

On February 2nd 2005, President Bush gave the annual State of the Union Address and announced his plan to reform Social Security. I agree that Social Security's future is in serious jeopardy. I also believe that something needs to be done to ensure the program's future solvency—meaning the ability for the program to provide benefits to the elderly. I believe that this must be done in a way conscious of Social Security's original purpose.

The Social Security system was implemented in 1935 under FDR, as part of the New Deal. This program was designed to provide retirement insurance after the Stock Market Crash of 1929. New Dealers recognized the unstable nature of the free market and created Social Security to counter the reliance on the stock market to provide retirement savings. Also, in order to provide full benefits to retirees regardless of present economic status, Social Security pays out of a single fund, not private accounts. To clarify, Social Security came into existence as a result of the inability of the stock market to protect savings. Social Security was designed to benefit all retirees, regardless of past income. Using taxes paid by workers and their employers, Social Security provided benefits to the elderly population as a whole.

President Bush's Proposed Social Security Reforms include the following three changes in Social Security as we know it today:

1. Implementing Private Social Security Accounts: "Here's why the personal accounts are a better deal. Your money will grow, over time, at a greater rate than anything the current system can deliver... And best of all, the money in the account is yours, and the government can never take it away."

2. Privatizing Social Security: "The money [in your private account] can only go into a conservative mix of bonds and stock funds."

3. Overriding Concept of Social Security: "If you're a younger worker, I believe you should be able to set aside part of that money in your own retirement account, so you can build a nest egg for your own future" [quotes are taken directly from the 2005 State of the Union]. Social Security was not designed to be a private savings account run by the federal government. Bush's suggested

"personal accounts" have numerous problems. Social Security, using this model, would be comparable to a 401K savings plan based on your current income. In other words, a CEO's Social Security payment would be high, but a factory worker's would be low. Instead of being a program designed to benefit the all workers equally to help them provide for their retirement, it would become a program designed to benefit the elderly who had a salary large enough to fund their retirement years. No longer would Social Security provide a sense of security to all American workers approaching the retirement age.

Privatizing Social Security flies in the face of history. Bush is correct in suggesting that the stock market over time will provide a greater return than the current Social Security system does. However, he fails to address the issue of market

slumps, crashes, and recessions (i.e., the economy of 2000 vs. 2001). These aspects of a free market make placing Social Security funds at the mercy of the stock exchange. Social Security should be safe, not based on the NASDAQ and Dow Jones Industrial averages.

While Bush's approach to Social Security lacks common sense and purpose, Bush was correct in addressing Social Security as a problem. Over the next 28 years, there will be only one new worker paying into Social Security for every 17 new Social Security recipients. The growing number of Baby Boomers all reaching retirement age is causing this strain on Social Security. Then again, this is no surprise; we have known about this for a long time.

We knew about it long before Karl Rove, the 2004 Campaign, 9-11, and the Florida recount. By 2000, everyone understood the strains that would be placed on Social Security. It would have made sense for Bush to have used the \$5.6 trillion surplus he inherited to ensure Social Security's future. Instead he wasted the money on tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans—who, by the way, probably are able to finance their retirement without Social Security. With 5.6 trillion dollars, Bush could have moved Social Security into the next century. He did not. Bush's new reforms ignore Social Security's role in this country, reject common sense, place too much faith on the stock exchange, and came five years too late.

Opinions

Opinions--you have them; we need them. If you would like to voice your opinion, send a letter to the editor or become an *Observer* contributor. Contact the editorial board via our Saint Joe's email account.

observer-editors@saintjoe.edu

Welcome & Why We Need Your Opinions

By E. Andrew Jendraszak, *Opinion Editor*

Welcome to *The Observer* opinion page. Some would ask the inane question of, "What do you do here?" I intend to answer this question. The point and purpose of the news section is to inform its readers, providing them the substantiated and objective facts and information pertaining to significant events on and around campus. On the opinion page we do the exact opposite. Instead of providing

meaningful information, we offer highly subjective—often unsubstantiated—points of view. This page is built around biased, non-informative, and often controversial perspectives. And, that is why we call it a newspaper.

In all honesty, the purpose of this section is to raise the level of debate and open topics for discussion here at St. Joseph's. For this reason, among others, we

also ask that you, the reader, offer your beliefs, thoughts, and opinions on issues of importance. If you want to change peoples' minds, shift the issues of debate, and raise significant points, go to Core class. And if you want it to be printed, write a letter to the editor. That is why we fill an entire page with subjective opinions and not real news.

measure

Come to the reading

When: Wednesday,
October 12, at 9:00
pm

Where: Cup of Joe (in
the Chapel basement)

PUMA PERSPECTIVE: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

By Elizabeth Wissel, *Outside Contributor*

A WORD FROM A "CUT AND PASTE MAJOR"

Last week, while at dinner, I mentioned that I had a test in one of my education classes coming up. Those of you in education know that this is a rarity. Generally, our teachers, or at least the ones that I have had, do not give "tests." They believe in teaching us how they want us to teach. Example: They want us to learn different forms of assessment, therefore they test our knowledge using, yep, you guessed it, different forms of assessment.

One year, we were learning about child development. Instead of asking us such questions as "What are characteristics of children in the psychomotor stage?" or "Describe the difference between accommodation and assimilation," we were asked to create a case study. In this case study, we were to observe a student in our field experience. We had to do some one-on-one work with the student, make observations about his or her personal and social development,

discuss where our student fit with Piaget and Vygotsky, as well as in the multiple intelligences, and create an instructional plan.

Another class was about creating unit plans. Did we have a standardized test that asked, "What are keys elements to creating a unit plan?" No, we created a unit plan, with lessons, classroom management, classroom set-up, field trips, and more.

Are you starting to see a pattern here? Rather than testing us by asking questions about a

topic, education professors generally make us apply what we have learned and create something that shows we know what we are doing. I happen to agree with this idea of different forms of assessment. I am not saying that I will never give my students standardized test; rather I am saying I will vary how I test their knowledge.

The next person I hear who claims elementary education is a cut and paste major because we have no tests needs to come see me and my four inch portfolio.

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Fall Camping Retreat: Presence, Peace, Path

By Alan Walczak, Staff Writer

Campus Ministry hosted its annual retreat Friday, September 16 through Sunday, September 19 at Tippecanoe State Park in Winamac. The camping retreat allowed students to get off campus, meet new people, and eat some gourmet meals prepared by Brother Tim. The campers spent much time eating and sleeping, doing their best to relax and just relieve stress. Senior Bob Jansen reflected on the weekend outing saying, "It is a great time to just relax." This camping retreat is one of two hosted by the campus ministry each year, the other being offered in the spring.

One underlying idea of the retreat was to be able to see God in nature, a simply awe-inspiring experience. "One of the most memorable moments was waking up extra early at 5:00 a.m. and watching the

sun rise from the park's fire tower," Jansen said. Junior Matt LeClaire, who has been on the retreat four times, said, "There are a number of retreat activities reflections, prayers, a Mass attendance and games. People can hike, climb the fire tower, play games, etc. It's a great way get to know people in a nonjudgmental and relaxed atmosphere."

This retreat was coordinated by Bob Jansen and Amy Luksus. If you like to be in good company, get off campus, and eat great food, as well as learn more about your relationship with God, then the camping retreat may be something that you would enjoy. You can contact Brother Tim, Fr. Jeff Kirch, or Ary Nelson for more information about retreats and additional Campus Ministry activities.



Randy Brooks, Allison Cole, and Bob Jansen participate in camping retreat activities.

SJC Celebrates Constitution Day

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

"We the People of the United States..."

On September 17th, 2005, the SJC community celebrated Constitution Day. Constitution Day began nine years ago when Louise Leigh had her elementary school students recite the preamble of the U.S. Constitution. Her goal was to "educate each new generation to the uniqueness and brilliance of our Constitution, the most perfect governmental document conceived by man. To show the need to

protect and defend it to maintain our liberties" (www.constitutionday.com).

In December 2004, President George W. Bush signed Constitution Day into law and requested an educational program in all federally-funded institutions. At 1:00 pm on September 16th, all schools and military installations recited the Preamble simultaneously across the United States. SJC celebrated by conducting a "Constitution Contest" at the football game, where

Brianna Johnston won a \$50 gift certificate for the bookstore for her high score, as well as posting the Preamble and the Bill of Rights on the closed-circuit Puma Pages. The RAs also posted information on bulletin boards in each of the residence halls. This year's celebration was dedicated to the United States military around the world.

"...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Kairos XLII

October 27-30, 2005

Register now!

Questions? Contact Co-Rectors
Nick Herold or Marissa Klebs

x5109 or x8134



In the need of a little rest and relaxation?

Massages and Oxygen Bar will be offered in the Halleck Center Ballroom on **Wednesday, October 12**, from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Don't miss out!

"On the Road Again": Campus Travels 2005

By Kara Marxer, Staff Writer

Classes and clubs across campus are taking students far beyond the classroom this semester. Students are traveling all around Indiana, to Chicago, and even to Boston within the coming weeks.

For students in the accounting department, Wednesday, September 21 meant traveling to Indianapolis. Accounting Interview Day, held at the University of Indianapolis, offered students a chance to search for internships and jobs. Professor Terra Maienbrook encouraged all of her junior and senior accounting students to attend. "Students have the opportunity to meet with some of the largest, most successful national, regional and local firms, along with corporations and governmental agencies,"

she said. "Every senior that attended last year received at least one full time job offer from this event." Nine students attended the event this year in Indianapolis.

Heading across the country, Dr. Peter Watkins' Political Science Seminar class will touch down in Boston, Massachusetts on October 19. The class, which focuses on the presidency of John F. Kennedy, will devote their time in Boston to a more in-depth look at the person that was our 35th President. Watkins believes the trip will benefit his students. "While there is obviously great value in spending time in the classroom reading about events such as the election of 1960 and Kennedy's time in office, our times in the classroom only give a two-

dimensional portrait of our subject. An additional dimension is gained, I believe, when we walk where Kennedy walked and when we are able to see up close artifacts from his private and public life." He added, "Boston is a wonderful city to visit if you want to experience both the past and the recent past in almost the same breath." Six students will be taking the trip to Boston.

Students that participate in the Columbian Players will have the opportunity to see the sights in Chicago sometime soon. The Players are traveling to see the Tony-award winning musical "Wicked" before the semester is out. Faculty advisor to the Columbian Players, Professor John Rahe, believes the opportunity is as much an

educational experience as it is fun. "The Columbian Players have traditionally gone on these types of trips because of the shared love of theatre and as a reward for the hard work they put in for the club... They get to see the best of professional theatre in the area, thereby adding to their cultural growth." So far, about fifty students have expressed interest in seeing "Wicked" in Chicago with the club.

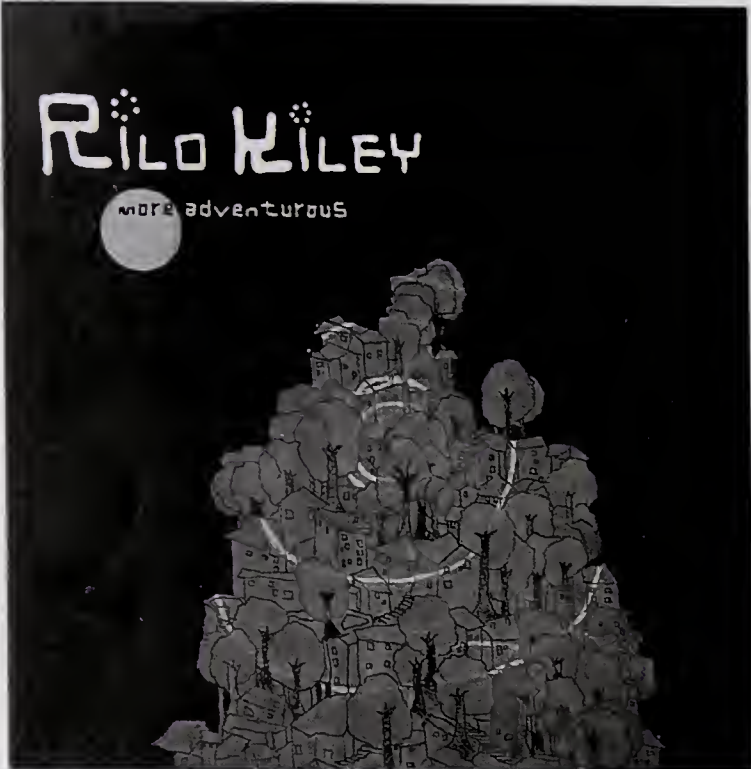
A little closer to home, the campus Habitat for Humanity chapter will hopefully be traveling to Kokomo, Indiana for a build in early October. The group assists in building homes with the Kokomo Habitat for Humanity chapter every year. Faculty advisor Professor Fred Berger has also been in contact with a Habitat

Chapter in Covington, Louisiana, offering help to victims of Hurricane Katrina. "Any volunteer work that we do as a Habitat for Humanity campus chapter will probably be a few weeks or months away - helping Habitat families back into homes, fixing up homes, etc.," he said. "The Louisiana chapter is still determining their needs, but once they do, the SJC chapter will be ready to go."

For more information about Habitat for Humanity, contact Berger at x6118 or fredb@saintjoe.edu.

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



The cover for *More Adventurous* features a city on a hill. No one really knows why. (Photo courtesy of http://images.amazon.com/images/P/B0002M5T7A.01_SCLZZZZZZZ.jpg)

Quartet Rilo Kiley Has Great Voice, Weak Message

Rilo Kiley's latest effort, *More Adventurous*, can most easily be described as infectious, eclectic pop-rock music. Rilo Kiley, a quartet from Los Angeles, has succeeded in making a diverse album that reaches across different spectrums.

On *More Adventurous*, Rilo Kiley stepped up to the plate and hit the ball with force. After their two previous LPs, Rilo Kiley has matured a great deal. They have moved from their once lo-fi pop and alt-country sound and developed into something new and exciting. The album is so diverse that not one song on the album sounds like another. "The Absence of God" is a simple acoustic number that is intimate with its listeners, while the song "Love and War (11/11/46)" is an explosive rock number that catches the listener's attention. As *More Adventurous* presses onward, it is easy to see that in comparison to their other LPs, Rilo Kiley is doing something right.

Rilo Kiley made a major change in composing the songs for their new album by featuring Jenny Lewis' vocals more prominently. When it comes to Rilo Kiley, the truth is that Lewis' voice is the real gem of the band. Her voice is crisp, calm, and cool. Listening to her sing is like

inhaling a refreshing breath of fall air. Her vocals are the meatiest part of their music. The orchestration of the music and the blend of Lewis' vocals prove that Rilo Kiley is on the way to hitting a home run with their new record.

Rilo Kiley's lyrics, however, are somewhat lacking in depth. Most of the lyrics are simple and fail to instill a sense of awe in the listener. The ideas that are brought up in their songs are interesting, but it is almost as if the band couldn't develop their ideas any better. A good example is the line "Any idiot can play Greek for a day and join a sorority or write a tragedy;" it attempts to be witty but fails and ends up sounding rather trite. This is not to say that all of their lyrics remain unimpressive. Rilo Kiley does have a few strokes of genius in songs such as the title track in which Lewis sings about her views of love: "I've read with every broken heart we should become more adventurous."

Rilo Kiley has grown immensely from its humble beginnings, and it is evident within *More Adventurous*. Even with its slightly unimpressive lyrics, *More Adventurous* is a good listen that will make you want to dance around your room for hours.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:
Originality: 8
Lyrics: 8
Lasting Appeal: 6
Album Cover: 6
Total: 7/10

Lord of War Makes the Sale, Delivers Late

By Katherine Stembel, Staff Writer

I have a confession to make: I really didn't want to see *Lord of War*. However, being a tolerant girlfriend, I went to see the flick with my boyfriend on an anniversary date (I know ladies, très romantique, non?). However, I will begrudgingly admit that I actually enjoyed the movie although I guarantee not everyone will, especially most girlfriends out on anniversary dates.

Nicholas Cage plays Yuri Orlov, a lifelong failure until he finds his talent – illegal gun running. Although his profitable business is time-intensive, Yuri is still caught up in a romance of "boy meets girl, girl finds out boy is selling uzis to tyrants, boy loses girl." Typical.

The moral of *Lord of War* is painfully obvious. Yuri knows what he's doing is wrong. He just doesn't care. If a six-year-old gets blasted with a gun Yuri sold to an army five minutes before, it's not his fault. Yuri's justification: if he didn't supply

the militant demand, someone else would. It's not his problem. How admirable.

Even though he is portrayed as an international arms dealer wrestling with his morals, for some reason I was rooting for him to win against a generically

in two hours two minutes – that the world is a vile and evil place and we will all die sooner rather than later. Head to the movie theater if you think you can handle *Lord of War*, and if you are not out on an anniversary date.



Nicholas Cage is made of bullets. No one should be surprised. (Photo courtesy of http://us.movies1.yimg.com/movies.yahoo.com/images/hv/photo/movie_pix/lions_gate_films/lord_of_war/lordofwar_bigfinal.jpg)

well-intentioned, completely incorruptible Interpol agent Jack Valentine (Ethan Hawke).

Even thirty seconds after his beloved younger brother Vitaly (Jared Leto) gets blown away in front of his eyes, Yuri still manages to close the deal, or at least that's what audiences are led to believe.

I do hope he took the payment of conflict diamonds for his guns, because they're worth something. What's the use of a dead brother?

In spite of his coarseness, Cage's character is dynamic, if not resistant to change.

So lay aside your Core books. They will only teach you in four years what *Lord of War* can teach you

Harvey Birdman Takes the Case, Looks Great in Suit

By BJ Houlding, Staff Writer

Have you ever gone back and watched one of the shows you loved as a kid and realized how questionable it really was? Have you ever thought what would happen if Shaggy got arrested for his drug use? Or if Droopy dog decided to get a Botox injection? Erik Richter and Michael Ouweleen did, featuring those ideas and more in their show "Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law" on Cartoon Network's [adult swim].

In the show, former superhero Birdman has become Harvey Birdman, a successful attorney. The show is produced by Hanna-Barbara, so all of their characters are fair game for ridicule, and the writers take full advantage of their options to brilliant effect. Each episode is chock full of Family Guy-like cameos; Harvey's clients range from alleged mob boss Fred Flinstone to convicted flasher Secret Squirrel. Birdgirl and Reductor make regular appearances as Harvey's assistant and enemy respectively. Other drop-ins include the Jetsons, Magilla

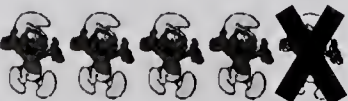


Harvey Birdman strikes a dramatic pose. He probably hates you. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.mts.net/~dprime/ALRIGHTY.jpg>)

Gorilla, Grape Ape, and Boo-Boo.

The show is a riot if you watched any cartoons at all when you were younger. The running gags are delightful, and the art is excellent. This is a show made for TiVo; the creators stick sight gags into nearly every scene. The courtroom denizens are always a wide cast of characters, and real-life figures aren't spared either. In one episode, Harvey takes a case to the "Justices League", which includes Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

On the whole "Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law" is one of the best shows on [adult swim] and is always worth watching. The jokes, both visual and verbal, are fantastic, and the theme song alone gives the show merit. The only problem with the show is that each episode is a mere 11 minutes long. I give it four Smurfs out of five.



When Pubic Service Announcements Fail, Anarchy Reigns

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

Something unfortunate happened two weeks ago, but it had nothing to do with New Orleans losing a double-or-nothing grudge match with a Gulf hurricane or Michael Moore eating Ohio. As with most things in *The Observer*, it had everything to do with genitals.

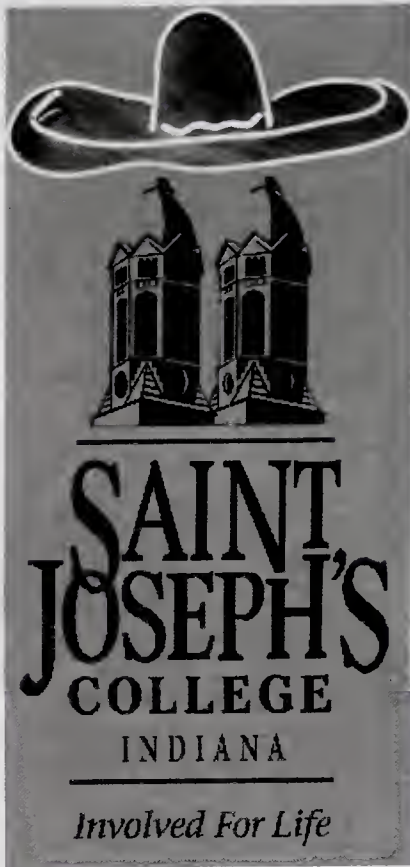
The following sentence appeared in my article a fortnight ago: "Alcohol makes people tougher, smarter, and better looking, and don't let *pubic* service announcements or common sense tell you otherwise." The typo was obviously the result of my subconscious fascination with the nether regions of the human body, but the word did not technically violate the terms of my parole so it made its way into my article unnoticed.

Among the eight people who read this column, however, there was complete bedlam. News of the typo was relayed from person to person faster than mono in Merlini. The message traveled first by word of mouth, then by carrier pigeon, and finally by a midget on a horse who rode up and down the IM field screaming, "The pubes are coming!" The "pubic incident" was soon picked up by CNN, which rightly linked the whole thing to global warming and blamed the Bush administration for its slow response. The tragedy of the situation was that it detracted from the importance of real pubic service announcements, which

are vital for warning the masses about dangers like low-flying footballs and the South American Venus crotch trap. All this happened approximately 45 seconds after *The Observer* went to press. It was easily the greatest scandal to hit campus since Habitat for Humanity sold nuclear secrets to Pakistan in exchange for ramen noodles and lead paint.

Now I've never been one to discourage mass hysteria. In fact, I've claimed on numerous occasions that reading causes cancer and Canada is trying to steal gravity, but never in all my years of dedicated journalistic dishonesty have I seen such upheaval over one five-letter word. In my all-knowing opinion, there was far more offensive content in my column two weeks ago. The phrases "herpes" and "explosive diarrhea" both appeared in the same article, but apparently venereal diseases and fecal eruptions from Mt. Anus are merely facts of life, whereas "pubic" is the most hilarious word in the English language. The only saving grace was that a few typos were corrected before the issue went to print, among which were "pubic endangerment" and "Charleston, West Vagina."

Thanks to poor planning and an intense hatred for Eastern Europe, I was able to transcend the "pubic incident" to create the second controversy of last issue: I



The aspect ratio of this logo is perfectly preserved, but there are still some people who are upset that it has a hat. Those people have too much time on their hands. (Photo partially courtesy of <http://www.diner-store.de/neons/Bilder/39Sombbrero.jpg>)

mistakenly called a group "Make the Right Choice," when in reality their name was "Make a Choice." "Making a choice" implied moral neutrality, whereas "making the right choice" forced the club into an unacceptable moral pigeonhole that excluded drug addicts, slave traders, and

Emperor Palpatine. I went on to claim that the group condones male prostitution and clubbing baby seals, both of which are choices of undetermined moral quality. So now there is an article below this one correcting the factual inaccuracies of my last column. Next week, there will probably be an article correcting the factual inaccuracies of this column, and it will probably be written in the blood of baby seals.

As if that were not enough excitement for one issue, there was a third controversy for which I was indirectly responsible in the same sense that an engineer is indirectly responsible when his train derails and kills hundreds of people. A higher authority appeared last week and laid down new commandments, the most important of which was this: "Thou shalt include an image of the chapel towers on the front page of all issues of *The Observer*, but thou shalt not change its aspect ratio." The order went on to demand animal sacrifices to the logo, but I kind of tuned out at that

point. The commandment was obviously issued because without the towers, SJC students reading the SJC school paper – which is filled with stories about SJC – would forget what school they attend. This could only lead to violence, cannibalism, and a severe surge in the teen

pregnancy rate. Therefore, in the name of pubic safety (yes, I know), I maintained the original aspect ratio of the logo, but I also gave it a sombrero because the rule was conspicuously silent about the addition of oversized hats.

Although they were shocking to hundreds of innocent college students, the "pubic incident," the "choice incident," and the anthrax-related deaths of three reporters last issue were hardly unexpected. There are many stringent requirements that must be met before becoming an editor for *The Observer*, but literacy is not one of them. My only competition for this job was a retarded monkey, and even then I was the less-qualified candidate until I figured out that a medium-sized primate can in fact fit inside a microwave. I celebrated my promotion to Co-head Editor and Chief with a bowl of superheated monkey chunks.

So before people start throwing bricks through my window, which is appreciated since I'm a recreational mason, please stop and consider my poor grasp of the English language and complete indifference to factual accuracy. I may have insulted your group, your family, or your connection to Al Qaeda, but I probably did it out of ignorance simply because I was too lazy to do it out of spite.

All complaints should be addressed to pubic@saintjoe.edu.

MAC Sponsors Homecoming Dance

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

"Make a Choice" and other students put on a dance in the Chapel basement Saturday night.

The event was planned and organized by senior math and theater communications major Kelly Bielak, who hoped to offer a fun and safe activity for students. The event drew a large crowd, which was impressive considering the Homecoming-night festivities with which it was competing. Bielak estimated that 50 people attended the event altogether.

"We left Cup of Joe's open for refreshments and so people could sit in there and socialize," Bielak said.

Financing for the event was largely covered by "Make a Choice," which was more than willing to help with the dance.

"MAC helped cover some of the expense, hence making us a sponsor," said junior history major Jeff Lawrence.

The evening was filled with music from well-known bands.

"We played a lot of hip hop, pop, rap – a lot of popular music," Bielak said.

In addition to good music, there was also plenty of food. Chips, candy, and Hawaiian punch could all be found inside Cup of Joe's. The music and



This is a filler image. Editors use them when reporters fail to turn in their articles. Also, a woman is dancing. (Photo courtesy of [http://www.artareas.com/ArtAreas/home.nsf/878f51f6ade349498525677d005796f8/edfaf3372b69585985256a7a005043b2/\\$FILE/Angel_Dance_2_Atmara.JPG](http://www.artareas.com/ArtAreas/home.nsf/878f51f6ade349498525677d005796f8/edfaf3372b69585985256a7a005043b2/$FILE/Angel_Dance_2_Atmara.JPG)).

food contributed to a fun evening for everyone involved.

"I think that the event was a success," Bielak said.

Even the cleanup went smoothly. Rows of tables, which had been moved to make room for dancing, were quickly put back in place thanks to all the people who remained behind to help.

"Because of all the people helping me, (cleanup) only took about 20 minutes," Bielak said.

MAC was also happy with the way the event turned out.

"I don't know exactly how many showed up, but for a SJC event it was well-attended and successful," Lawrence said. "Fitting with the goal of MAC, it just provided a fun alternative."

"Make a Choice" Trumps "Make the Right Choice" Every Time

By Jeff Lawrence, Staff Writer

The members of MAC would like to make a few corrections to the feature in the last issue of *The Observer*. Therein, the editor failed to correct several misleading statements regarding the reaction of MAC members towards fellow students who wish to drink. He stated that MAC members would react severely towards anyone they found to be intoxicated when in reality this is not the fact. "Make a Choice" members are in no way militant or spiteful towards people who wish to drink.

Rather, they gather merely to provide another option for those looking for an activity on Thursday nights. Additionally, we

are also not named "Make the Right Choice," since we again take no negative stand against alcohol.



Life is full of choices. Deciding whether or not to run over children is one of them. (Photo courtesy of http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image%3ARoad_signs.jpg)

Focus is the Key to the Pumas Turnaround

By Chase Sonen, Staff Writer

When junior Nate Durant was asked what has been the biggest difference for the Pumas first three games of the season (all losses) and then their last two (all wins) he said, "Focus. We are playing with a lot more focus lately, everyone is finally on the same page, and as a team we are

starting to gel and come together." With this new focus, the Pumas finally look like the team everyone expected from week one, a team with as much, if not more talent, than any team they matched up against. This was proven this past weekend when

they took down previously undefeated Missouri-Rolla. This was a game that saw the Pumas trailing 20-7 late in the second quarter. After that, however, the defense stepped up behind junior Cory Sanders and senior captain Kevin Rees who paced the Pumas with eight tackles apiece.

With the defense keeping up its end of the deal, the offense fired back in dramatic fashion as quarterback Anthony Lindsay, a sophomore, passed for 240 yards, and junior running back Greg Ford racked up fifty-five hard-fought yards on the ground.

Up 21-20 late in the game, Lindsay completed a seven yard pass to Durant to put the game away. The Pumas look at making it three for three this weekend when they host Upper Iowa.



Football photos courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Hawaii '05

Pumas Say, "Aloha" to the Competition

Volleyball	Football
vs.	vs.
Quincy	Missouri-Rolla
3-2	28-23

Pumas Dig Their Way Out of a Hole

By Erin Jones, Staff Writer

Struggles continued for the Puma volleyball team as they finished two weekends ago 0-2 in conference and Wednesday, September 21, as they fell to Saint Xavier of Chicago in three. The fierce competition and the fact that starting senior middle, Shelley Figiel (captain) has been out due to a stress fracture of the ankle, has made the past few games that much more difficult. On the other hand, one of the positive things to come out of that weekend was a new SJC

record for assists (2,791) established by senior setter Brittany Wikierak (captain). However, that turned around homecoming weekend as the Pumas blew past the Riverwomen of the University of Missouri-Saint Louis in three (30-22, 30-18 and 30-26) and the Hawks of Quincy (IL) in five (30-20, 25-30, 31-29, 22-30 and 15-11). In the Friday night match, the Pumas were led by junior Breanne Evans with thirteen kills, sophomore Stacy West and senior Erin Jones with seven kills apiece. Brittany Wikierak added another thirty-one assists and defensively, Evans led with sixteen digs, sophomore Melissa Rind with twelve and junior Ashley Adams with ten. The Saturday match against Quincy proved to be a real nail biter stretching out to the full five games. The offense was controlled by outside hitters Rind and Evans who finished the

afternoon with eleven and nine kills respectively. West led the middle hitters with seven kills. Saying that the Pumas served the Hawks off the court is an understatement, as a combined effort by Evans, Wikierak, West and Rind resulted in fourteen aces. The results of this weekend move the Pumas up to eighth place in the GLVC standings, from their original tenth place position, and has significantly improved the team's drive.

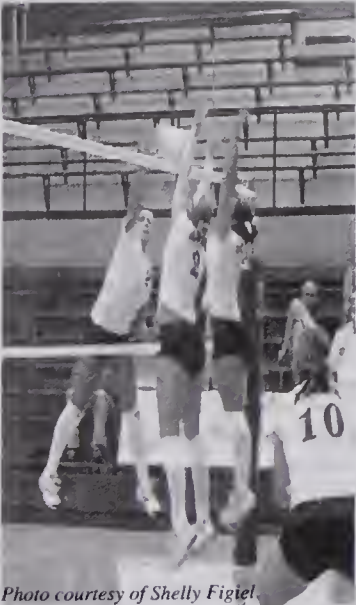


Photo courtesy of Shelly Figiel



Puma "Cubs" Take Out Alums

By Allison Segarra, Sports Editor

The alumni baseball game is yet another time-honored homecoming tradition here at Saint Joseph's College. At 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning, the current members of the SJC baseball team challenged a skilled group of Puma veterans. Recent graduates Scott Smolek, Sean McBride, and Adam Zimmerman were among those to take the field. In the first inning, third baseman Mike Victor (senior) hit a homerun for the Pumas. Graduate Marty Duikas (class of '98) answered back with a homerun in the eighth inning. Nevertheless the '05-'06 Pumas were victorious (11-6) after nine innings.



Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Tired of Being ESPN's Pawn

By Elizabeth Klocek, Columnist

ESPN: (I would have put what it meant, but as I just learned from the ESPN website, it means nothing now, but pre-1985 it meant Entertainment and Sports Programming Network; what a strange turn of events, but I shall carry on).

It has so much to offer: *SportsCenter, P.T.I. (Pardon the Interruption,* for those not in the know), *Around the Horn,* "50 States in 50 Days," the hard-to-come-by Red Sox games, competitive eating (I'm still on the fence about this, the thought of it makes me ill and I can't quite get beyond that yet). And yet . . . and yet, ESPN has let me down before.

I remember it well. It was a rainy afternoon my freshman year. (Sigh) We happened upon ESPN, or perhaps its half-wit twin brother ESPN2. It really doesn't matter. What we found was quite disturbing.

Chess. As if that wasn't bad enough, it wasn't even two overly intelligent individuals battling it out. It was some world chess champion, and no, I do not know his name nor care, and a computer. Let me just say, man versus machine should not refer to an overly complicated game of checkers. But so it was.

If I had control of the remote at the time, no more than two seconds would have been spent on such insanity. But a man and his remote seem to share a sacred and unbreakable bond. My pleas were met with: "Don't worry, it's almost over;" "Only a few more minutes;" and other lies.

Three, I repeat, THREE, hours later the television clicked off. As the screen went black, I was practically in tears. Not only had I lost three hours of my life, I had lost them to, in my opinion, one of the most boring board games ever. And it had

ended in a draw. NO ONE WON!

I believe that there ought to be some sort of compensation for situations such as this. First and foremost, and, perhaps, it is my only point, chess is NOT a sport. And neither is poker for that matter. If the required physical exertion for your

"sport" is holding little pieces of paper, while sitting on your butt, or sliding, after twenty-plus minute

intervals, oversized Monopoly pieces across a board, you do not belong on ESPN. Even Bob Costas is with me on this one. I say you do not belong on TV at all, but in your buddy's basement, or as I have seen many times, the Merlini lounge.

And I am not saying girls are the only ones who suffer such a fate, who lose valuable hours of their lives to such nonsense; quite the contrary, it is a unisex dilemma. But you can bet if a guy is forced to watch HGTV, the show *will* be about the home or garden.

I am still recovering from this incident, I often cry myself to sleep over it. But the memories of Max Kellerman and Disembodied Voice; Woody Paige, my favorite loser; Stat Boy taking Tony Kornheiser and Mike Wilbon down a peg or two; "50 States in 50 Days" hitting up Staunton, VA (I've been there); and Randy Johnson getting ejected from last Friday's game, get me through.

But if, and when, ESPN manages to swing chess Harry Potter-style, then we'll talk.

Fantasy Football Update: Heading into Week Three, I have dropped from eighth to tenth place. There are only ten teams in our league and, I fear the beating will continue throughout the season.

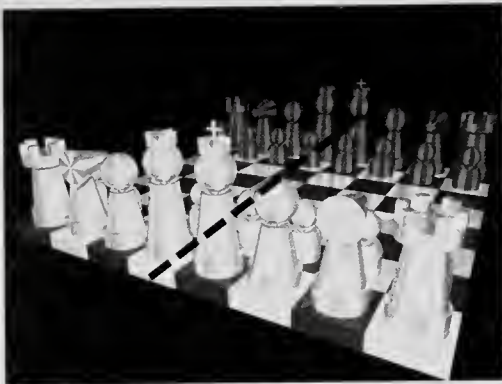


Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Racing for a Finish at Home

By Andrew Costello, Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College men's and women's cross country teams have reached the half-way point of what looks to be a memorable season. Despite several injuries and an abundance of youth, both teams look to keep their eyes on the prize: winning the Great Lakes Athletic Conference Championship on October 22. This goal is important to the Pumas because the meet will be held here in Rensselaer on the home course.

Bill Massoels is entering his sixteenth year as head coach of both cross country teams at SJC. The men's team is captained by juniors Andy Vandehey and Eric Fleming, and is comprised of juniors Joe Larson and Joe King, sophomores Matt Leonardo, Ryan Hall, and Andrew Costello, and freshmen Todd Laubhan and Val Ploetz, who will red shirt this year. Despite the lack of senior leadership on the men's team, junior captain Vandehey feels that it is no excuse for failure.

"Despite being a young team with no seniors, we have a lot of talent...and have a chance to really make some noise in the conference."

The men's team looks to improve from a dismal eighth place finish at last year's GLVC Cross Country Championships. To do this, the team will have to continue to work hard with the intensity that Eric Fleming sees.

"After a long and hot summer, the guys are proving their success on the course. Their hard work is paying off," Fleming said confidently. "We, as a team, have to keep working hard and the intensity in practice has to keep increasing if we want to reach our goals of winning conference meet. So far, we are on the right path, as long as we can get all of our guys to stay healthy and injury free."

So far this season, the men have finished first at the Puma Invitational, fourth at the

Valparaiso Invitational, and seventeenth at the National Catholic Meet at Notre Dame.

On the women's side, there seems to be many parallels. There is an abundance of youth and looming injuries. Junior Jordan Henley is the captain of the women's team, and is excited for the future. Sophomores Ashley Moore, Danielle Stockmaster, and Kim Woodruff look to anchor the team much like they did last year, while freshmen Emma Eilts, Jenna Helton, and Jacqui Mohr add depth as well.

During the 2005 season, the women finished first at the Puma Invitational, eighth at Valparaiso, and twenty-ninth at Notre Dame.

Although winning a conference championship is the ultimate goal of the 2005 campaign, clinching a berth for the National Championships at California Polytechnic in November is also being pursued.

Head Coach Bill Massoels is convinced that making a trip out to the West Coast come November is not out of the question for both teams.

"In order for us to make nationals, we need to establish some consistency in the 4-5 position on both the men's and women's teams," Massoels said emphatically. "If we can do that, with everyone working as hard as they have already, then we will qualify for nationals."

The Pumas next meet will be in Huntington, Indiana, at the E. DeWitt Baker Invitational on October 1. After that, the Pumas round off the regular season with the Benedictine Invitational on October 7, then host the GLVC meet on October 22, and then head to Ferris State for the NCAA Division II Regional Meet. It is time to go the extra mile.

Puma Profile



Photo Courtesy of Kristin Dolmetsch

By Erika Osborne, Staff Writer

Full name: Kristin Dolmetsch
Nickname: Dolo
Age: 20
Grade: Junior
Hometown: Northville, MI
Sport: Soccer
Position: Center Midfield
Started playing: When I was four years old

Best part of soccer: Playing under the lights with the drunken fans slurring their loud and obnoxious cheers!

Have you ever broken a bone: Yeah, I broke my thumb playing soccer. It sounds impossible but I managed to do it.

Strength: I am a giant so I'm strong in the air for head balls.

Weakness: My speed
Warm-up song: Gorillaz' "Feel Good Inc."

Favorite food: Mama Dolmetsch's lasagna.

Favorite movie: Old School

Favorite band: 311

Favorite song: Howie Day's "Collide"

Favorite class: TV Production

One place in the world you'd fancy visiting: Australia

One person you would give anything to meet: Dane Cook

Biggest influence: My parents

One word to describe you:

Goofy



Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

Common Pumas Let's Go, G-O G-O



Horoscopes



Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
Stop being so pushy; no one likes a know-it-all. Think with your heart and stop fighting with those you love. You've made your bed and now you must lie in it. Stay positive and victory will be on its way.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Those around you seek your knowledge, but remember you are not God Almighty. Remember to laugh off life's struggles. Put your feet up and live a little – enjoy life's simple pleasures. Through life's biggest struggles your true friends will be with you until the end.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
Money does not grow on trees, so stop racking up your credit card bill. Be happy with what you have and stop being so materialistic. Think before you act. Integrity is the key to your success. Take a vacation from all of your chores and responsibilities.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
Don't be so narrow minded – think outside the box. You will figure out what makes you happy once you stop flirting with everyone who

crosses your path. Thinking with your heart is the key to your future. You have the talent, and now is the time to perfect it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
Don't be a fool. Those around you are playing to win. The world doesn't revolve around money, so stop being so materialistic. Those around you are very emotional; don't take their words to heart. If you want to be rewarded you have to learn self-discipline and be a good team player. The slacker never gets rewards.

Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)
Beware of those Puma Rumors, for most likely they are not true. Be an individual and stop fearing self-expression; it will bring you achievement. When life is not going the way you planned, try the other fork in the road. You are only bullied because others are jealous of your talents – stand up for yourself!

Aries (March 21-April 19)
What goes around comes around. Lay off the extra food: late-night trips to Grandma's are not helping

your health. Do not act so childish when things do not go as planned. Stop cheating and play by the rules. You have the knowledge, so just find the confidence.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)
Since you don't know when to say "no," let others help you. You can't do it all on your own. Stop living in a bubble and see the truth. Stop fighting with your significant other; you are just as at fault. Take time out to show them how much you love them. Surprise them with a romantic date.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
Breathe. Getting so worked-up is not going to solve your problems. Don't get so jealous; life is much better when you are happy. The work load will lessen and you will have time to relax. Watch out for those vanity pounds and that extra spending you have been doing – it is likely to catch up with you.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
Don't be so gullible. Use common sense. The light is green, so move ahead and don't look back. Accept criticism and admit your

mistakes. Say what you feel when you feel it. Make your faith Number One. Take time to pamper yourself and the one you love.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
Don't be so greedy. You have extra money – put it to good use. You will come out on top in competition, but learn from opposition. You are so close to relaxation, so just finish that paper you have been putting off. Do not let those around you bring you down – it is your time to shine.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
Stop being such a coward, fight for what you believe in. Your Puma Guide is filled to the max, and the clock is ticking. Surround yourself with friends, for they will help you through this unlucky phase. Your faith and determination will guide you to reach your goals.

This week's stars have been read by your Auntie Cleo.



Are you an Artist?

Are you a photographer? Whether you're an amateur shutterbug or an artistic expert, we'd love to see your work.



Is April *really* the cruelest month? If you're an aspiring poet, send us your verses – and have a published piece to add to your portfolio.



Can you paint, sculpt, sketch, or sew? If you've got another artistic creation you'd like to see appear in print, we can arrange to have your work photographed and presented to our readers!



If Interested, contact ehi4379@saintjoe.edu.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies Sept 16-22
(219) 866-2222

www.fountainstonetheaters.com

Into the Blue

Fri: 5:05, 7:10, 9:15 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:00, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15
Sun: 3:00, 5:05, 7:10
Mon-Th: 5:05, 7:10

Flightplan

Fri: 5:10, 7:20, 9:20 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:20, 5:10, 7:20, 9:20
Sun: 3:20, 5:10, 7:20
Mon-Th: 5:10, 7:20

Just Like Heaven

Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
Sun: 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Th: 5:00, 7:00

The Exorcism of Emily Rose

Fri: 5:20, 7:25, 9:30 (PG-13)
Sat: 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
Sun: 3:15, 5:20, 7:25
Mon-Th: 5:20, 7:25

Tim Burton's Corpse Bride

Fri: 5:30, 7:30, 9:00 (PG)
Sat: 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:00
Sun: 3:30, 5:30, 7:30
Mon-Th: 5:30, 7:30

Coming October 7

Wallace and Gromit

In Her Shoes

Dear Frankie, Dear Sammy...

Dear Annoyed,

It's understandable to be annoyed at the disregard for common courtesy among SJC students today. You are certainly not alone in your complaint.

Why is this, though? First and foremost, consider the location. You've got to admit that SJC is somewhat isolated from any urban civilization. Perhaps students here feel the need to stay in contact with different types of people, culture, and points of view. Certainly, you would have problems questioning the validity of such a desire.

Additionally, one could observe that some people on this campus are not merely in need of such contact outside their immediate environs, but that they are completely annoyed as a result. They feel that they are missing out on the Great American Collegiate Experience that is perpetuated in film and media.

I guess you could say that we're all looking for something more than that which we are given here on campus. Perhaps, then, when you next walk by a person who is busily chatting about life with a friend from California on the other line, you will keep in mind that that person is merely looking beyond the confines of the Great Box, and then you may want to nudge him and say that, while there is much beyond this tiny campus, there is also much to be experienced here once he gets off the line.

Take care,
Frankie Dunhill

Why is it that students now always have a serious lump on the side of their head--not their ear, but a cell phone? Are we now becoming shallower than a street puddle or is there a widespread epidemic of shortage in the intelligence and courtesy department? -Annoyed in Academia



Sammy Samporina

Do you have a question for Frankie and Sammy?

Then e-mail them at Dunhill_Samporina@yahoo.com.

Frankie Dunhill



Dear Annoyed,

Yeah, there's a shortage in the intelligence and courtesy department. Unfortunately, I've talked to our suppliers, and it's gonna be on back order until the next generation. As we all know, Americans have become completely dependent on two facets of modern culture: foreign oil and cell phones. Yes, cell phones are tremendously useful when making a long road trip, and now 'family plans' ensure that you'll be able to tell your parents about everything from your Core quizzes to the kegger you attended last weekend. But calling your buddy to find out when he'll be at dinner? Unnecessary.

Yours truly was once invited out to coffee by a gentleman, for the point and purpose of meeting his older brother. The brother arrived, ordered a triple-skim-double-foam-girly-coffee, chatted for a moment, and then excused himself to make a phone call. He was gone for an hour, leaving my gentlemen friend embarrassed by his obvious lack of interest in a conversation. When the older brother returned, he offered an explanation in lieu of an apology – evidently his girlfriend had gone to England as a foreign exchange student, and was having 'a bad day.' He finished his drink, and then declared that he had to hit the road. Sadly, about all I learned about him was his name and that he was willing to stand outside a Starbucks in December for an hour to talk on a cell phone. What a gentleman!
Sammy Samporina

In Lafayette

Gangbé Brass Band

- A 10-piece brass band from Benin, West Africa.
- At Duncan Hall, 619 Ferry St., Lafayette IN 47920
- On Sunday October 16, 7:30pm (doors open at 7:00)
- Cost: \$12 in advance, \$14 the day of the show
- For more information, go to www.friends-of-bob.org

Purdue vs. Notre Dame

- At Ross-Ade Stadium in West Lafayette, IN, at 6:45 PM on October 1.
- Availability extremely limited.



VS.

